

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving data from a network protocol layer of a receiving client, the data comprising a portion of an event being received at the receiving client;

determining if the data is eligible for a security operation, wherein eligibility is determined by selector data contained in the data;

creating a selector based on the selector data and using said selector to search a receiving client database of security associations for at least one selector/security association pair identifying a security association corresponding to the selector, said receiving client database storing a plurality of selector/security association pairs received from a key server corresponding to different timewise intervals of said event;  
applying the security operation to the data if the data is eligible wherein applying the security operation comprises using the security association on the at least a portion of the data; and

sending the data to which the security operation has been applied to a network application program interface (API) of the receiving client;

wherein, for any particular one of said timewise intervals of said event having a corresponding selector/security association pair, the receiving client receives said corresponding selector/security association pair from said key server and stores said

corresponding selector/security association pair in said receiving client database prior to receiving said particular one of said timewise intervals of said event, and

~~The method of claim 6~~ wherein determining if the data is eligible for the security operation comprises determining that the data is not eligible for the security operation if the selector cannot be created based on the selector data, and wherein said data is sent to the network API of the receiving client without an applied security operation if it is so determined that the data is not eligible.

11-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage medium having stored thereon machine executable instructions, execution of said machine executable instructions being operable to implement a method comprising:

receiving data from a network protocol layer of a receiving client, the data comprising a portion of an event being received at the receiving client;

determining if the data is eligible for a security operation, wherein eligibility is determined by selector data contained in the data;

creating a selector based on the selector data and using said selector to search a local receiving client database of security associations for at least one selector/security association pair identifying a security association corresponding to the selector, said receiving client database storing a plurality of selector/security association pairs received from a key server corresponding to a succession of timewise intervals of said event;

applying the security operation to the data if the data is eligible, wherein applying the security operation comprises using a security association on the at least a

portion of the data; and

sending the data to which the security operation has been applied to a network  
application program interface (API) of the receiving client;

wherein, for any particular one of said timewise intervals of said event having a  
corresponding selector/security association pair, the receiving client receives said  
corresponding selector/security association pair from said key server and stores said  
corresponding selector/security association pair in said receiving client database prior to  
receiving said particular one of said timewise intervals of said event, and

~~The machine-readable storage medium of claim 19 wherein determining if the~~  
data is eligible for the security operation comprises determining that the data is not  
eligible for the security operation if a selector cannot be created based on the data, and  
wherein said data is sent to the network API of the receiving client without an applied  
security operation if it is so determined that the data is not eligible.

24-28. (Canceled)